

Applicant : Robert H. Mimplitch, III et al.
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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 33-37, 55, 56, 67, and 72 without prejudice.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A coupling member for converting a two-post equipment rack, comprising:

a vertical support member having a first lateral end, a second lateral end, a first longitudinal end, and a second longitudinal end;

an equipment attachment flange coupled to the first lateral end, wherein the equipment attachment flange defines a vertical supporting point for a load, and wherein the equipment attachment flange is further operable to secure the load to the equipment attachment flange; and

means for securing the coupling member to the two-post equipment rack;

a first torsion member attached to the vertical support member at the first longitudinal end, the first torsion member including an aperture for receiving a fastener for attaching the coupling member to an adjacent coupling member; and

a second torsion member attached to the vertical support at the second longitudinal end.

2. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said supporting point emulates a vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack having a hole pattern that complies with EIA-310, revision D includes at least three holes linearly disposed across approximately 1.75 inches of the vertical upright, and wherein the center-to-center distance between a first hole and a second hole is approximately 0.625 inches, and wherein the center-to-center distance between a second hole and a third hole is approximately 0.625 inches.

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Claims 3-5 (cancelled)

6. (Original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said load comprises electronic equipment.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said means for securing the coupling member to the two-post rack comprises a rack attachment flange coupled to the second lateral end of the vertical support member.

10. (Original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is adapted to be mounted adjacent to other coupling members and to be supported by adjacent coupling members.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Withdrawn) The coupling member of claim 11, wherein said at least one coupling feature is located on said vertical support member.

14. (Withdrawn) The coupling member of claim 11, wherein said at least one coupling feature is located on said equipment attachment means.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

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16. (Original) The coupling member of claim 9, wherein said rack attachment flange is adapted to provide a load transfer path from said vertical support member to the two-post equipment rack.

17. (Original) The coupling member of claim 9, wherein said rack-attachment flange is in a pre-loading configuration.

18. (Original) The coupling member of claim 17, wherein the pre-loading configuration is provided by said rack attachment flange being secured to said vertical support member at an acute angle.

19. (Withdrawn) The coupling member of claim 8, further including an outwardly extending portion on said first and second torsion members, said outwardly extending portion extending beyond said rack attachment flange.

20. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim [[7]] 1, further including an outwardly extending portion on said first torsion member, wherein said first torsion member further includes a lower flange end on said outwardly extending portion adapted to provide a pivot point for load support.

21. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim [[8]] 1, further including an outwardly extending portion on said second torsion member, wherein said second torsion member further includes a lower flange end on said outwardly extending portion adapted to provide a pivot point for load support.

22. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim [[8]] 1, wherein said first and second torsion members have terminating portions formed at an obtuse angle relative to said vertical support member.

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23. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim [[7]] 1, wherein said first torsion member is substantially perpendicularly coupled to said vertical support member at the first longitudinal end.

24. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim [[8]] 1, wherein said second torsion member is substantially perpendicularly coupled to said vertical support member at the second longitudinal end.

25. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is formed in increments of one modular unit ("U") in height.

26. (Original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said vertical support member is provided with one or more openings thereon.

27. (Original) The coupling member of claim 26, wherein said openings are adapted to provide ventilation.

28. (Original) The coupling member of claim 26, wherein said openings provide tie-points for securement of cables thereto.

29. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim [[7]] 1, wherein said first torsion member terminates at a point prior to said equipment attachment flange, forming a gap.

30. (Currently Amended) The coupling member of claim [[8]] 1, wherein said second torsion member terminates at a point prior to said equipment attachment flange, forming a gap therein.

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31. (Currently Amended) A two-post rack system, comprising:
- a first vertical post including a first side and a second side;
 - a second vertical post including a first side and a second side, wherein the second vertical post is coupled to the first post via a base;
 - a first coupling member, the first coupling member coupled at a lateral end to the first post and independently extending substantially horizontally outward from the first post, and wherein the first coupling member replicates at least one post in a four-post equipment rack, and wherein the first coupling member comprises:
 - a vertical support member including a first lateral end, a second lateral end, a first longitudinal end, and a second longitudinal end;
 - a first torsion member attached to the vertical support member at the first longitudinal end, the first torsion member including an aperture for receiving a fastener for attaching the first coupling member to an adjacent coupling member; and
 - a second torsion member attached to the vertical support at the second longitudinal end;
 - an equipment attachment flange coupled to the first lateral end, wherein the equipment attachment flange is adapted to emulate a vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack, and wherein the equipment attachment flange is further adapted to secure to a load; and
 - a rack attachment flange coupled to the second lateral end of the vertical support member; and
 - a second coupling member, the second coupling member coupled at a lateral end to the second post and independently extending substantially horizontally outward from the second post, and wherein the second coupling member replicates at least one post in the four-post equipment rack; and wherein the second coupling member comprises at least one aperture for receiving a fastener for coupling the second coupling member to an adjacent coupling member.

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32. (Previously Presented) The two-post rack system of claim 31, further comprising:
a third coupling member coupled to the first post and independently extending substantially horizontally outward from the first post; and
a fourth coupling member coupled to the second post and independently extending substantially horizontally outward from the second post,
wherein the first coupling member, the second coupling member, the third coupling member, and the fourth coupling member each substantially replicate a different vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack.

Claims 33-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) The two-post equipment rack system of claim ~~33~~ 31, further comprising said rack attachment flange operable to provide a load transfer path from said vertical support member to the two-post equipment rack.

39. (Currently Amended) The two-post equipment rack system of claim ~~33~~ 31, further comprising said rack-attachment flange being in a pre-loading configuration.

40. (Previously Presented) The two-post equipment rack system of claim 39, wherein said pre-loading configuration comprises said rack attachment flange being secured to said vertical support member at an acute angle.

41. (Withdrawn) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 34, further comprising:
said first torsion member and said second torsion member extending beyond said rack attachment flange.

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42. (Currently Amended) The two-post equipment rack system of claim [[34]] 31, further comprising said first torsion member having a lower flange end adapted to provide a pivot point for load support.

43. (Currently Amended) The two-post equipment rack system of claim [[34]] 31, further comprising said second torsion member having a lower flange end adapted to provide a pivot point for load support.

44. (Currently Amended) The two-post equipment rack system of claim [[34]] 31, further comprising said first torsion member substantially perpendicularly coupled to said vertical support member at said first longitudinal end.

45. (Currently Amended) The two-post equipment rack system of claim [[34]] 31, further comprising said second torsion member substantially perpendicularly coupled to said vertical support member at said second longitudinal end.

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46. (Currently Amended) A method for converting a two-post equipment rack to support equipment configured to couple to four-post equipment racks, comprising:

coupling independent four-post replicating mounting points on the two-post equipment rack, wherein said mounting points comprise two or more independent coupling members, said four-post replicating mounting points operable to support equipment configured to couple to four-post equipment racks, and wherein a four-post equipment rack comprises four posts, and wherein the equipment configured to couple to four-post equipment racks is adapted to couple to and be supported by each post of the four-post equipment rack; and each coupling member operable to vertically support the equipment configured to couple to four-post equipment racks at a first lateral end and to attach to only one respective post at a second lateral end

attaching equipment configured to couple to four-post equipment racks to a first lateral end of a first coupling member;

attaching a second lateral end of the first coupling member to a first post of a two-post equipment rack;

attaching the equipment configured to couple to four-post equipment racks to a first lateral end of a second coupling member; and

attaching a second lateral end of the second coupling member to a second post of the two-post equipment rack.

Claim 47 (Canceled)

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said four-post replicating mounting points comprise four coupling members.

49. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of said four-post replicating mounting points comprise:

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a vertical support member having a first lateral end, a second lateral end, a first longitudinal end, and a second longitudinal end;

an equipment attachment flange coupled to the first lateral end, said equipment attachment flange being adapted to emulate a vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack, said equipment attachment flange being farther adapted to secure to a load; and

a rack attachment flange coupled to the second lateral end of said vertical support member.

50. (Original) The method of claim 49, wherein one of said four-post replicating mounting points further comprise:

a first torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the first longitudinal end; and

a second torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the second longitudinal end.

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51. (Currently Amended) A method for adapting a two-post equipment rack to support equipment configured to couple to four-post equipment racks, comprising:

coupling a first coupling member to a first post at a first end of the first coupling member, the first coupling member further comprising a second end;

coupling a second coupling member to a second post at a first end of the second coupling member, the second coupling member comprising a second end, wherein said first coupling member and said second coupling member emulate two of the four posts in a four-post rack with each emulated post defining a vertical supporting point for a load; and

attaching a load having a first attachment point, a second attachment point, a third attachment point, and a fourth attachment point, wherein the load is adapted to mount to a four post rack at each of the four attachment points of the load by:

attaching the first attachment point of the load to the second end of the first coupling member; and

attaching the second attachment point of the load to the second end of the second coupling member;

attaching the third attachment point of the load to the first post; and

attaching the fourth attachment point of the load to the second post,

wherein the first post and the second post of the two-post equipment rack provides the remaining two posts in the four-post rack emulate the other two posts of the four posts in the four-post rack with each post defining a vertical supporting point for a load.

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52. (Currently Amended) A method for adapting a two-post equipment rack to support equipment configured to couple to four-post equipment racks, comprising:

coupling a first coupling member to a first post at a first end of the first coupling member, the first coupling member further comprising a second end;

coupling a second coupling member to a second post at a first end of the second coupling member, the second coupling member further comprising a second end;

coupling a third coupling member to said first post at a first end of the third coupling member and substantially planar to and substantially parallel to said first coupling member, the third coupling member further comprising a second end;

coupling a fourth coupling member to said second post at a first end of the fourth coupling member and substantially planar to and substantially parallel to said second coupling member, the fourth coupling member further comprises a second end; and

attaching a load having a first attachment point, a second attachment point, a third attachment point, and a fourth attachment point, wherein the load is adapted to mount to a four post rack at each of the four attachment points of the load by:

attaching the first attachment point of the load to the second end of the first coupling member; and

attaching the second attachment point of the load to the second end of the second coupling member;

attaching the third attachment point of the load to the second end of the third coupling member; and

attaching the fourth attachment point of the load to the fourth coupling member;

wherein the second end of each of the coupling members emulates one respective post in a four-post rack, with each emulated post defining a supporting point for a load.

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53. (Original) The method of claim 52, where said first coupling member comprises:
a vertical support member having a first lateral end, a second lateral end, a first longitudinal end, and a second longitudinal end;
an equipment attachment flange coupled to the first lateral end, said equipment attachment flange being adapted to emulate a vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack, said equipment attachment flange being further adapted to secure to a load; and
a rack attachment flange coupled to the second lateral end of said vertical support member.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said first coupling member further comprises:
a first torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the first longitudinal end; and
a second torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the second longitudinal end.

Claims 55-56 (Cancelled)

57. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said load comprises a slide assembly.

58. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising:
securing a fifth coupling member to said first post; and
securing a sixth coupling member to said second post.

59. (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising:
coupling said first coupling member to said fifth coupling member.

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60. (Withdrawn) A method of converting a portion of a rack to emulate a commercially-available four-post rack, comprising: providing a plurality of coupling members thereon; adjusting the forward depth of the two-post rack; adjusting a mounting feature on at least one of the plurality of coupling members.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein the converted rack is a two-post rack.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein said providing a plurality includes placement of said plurality of coupling members depending on the load configuration.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, further comprising: adjusting the aft depth of the two-post rack.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, further comprising: attaching a load to at least one of the plurality of coupling members.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 64, further comprising: substantially centering the load about the two-post rack.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, further comprising: forming an opening in the two-post rack in accordance with a standard defined by EIA-310.

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Claim 67 (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A method for racking a device having a four-post rack-mounting configuration to a two-post rack system, said method comprising:

installing a two-post to four-post adapter on the two-post rack system, the two-post to four-post adapter operable to support a device having a four-post rack-mounting configuration, the four-post rack-mounting configuration being a configuration for mounting a device on a four-post rack, wherein the device is supported solely by the posts in the four-post rack; and

mounting the device to the two-post to four-post adapter; and
coupling the device to each post of the two post rack.

69. (Original) The method according to claim 68, wherein said installing includes coupling the two-post to four-post adapter to the two-post rack system.

70. (Original) The method according to claim 69, wherein the coupling includes bolting the two-post to four-post adapter to the two-post rack system.

71. (Original) The method according to claim 68, wherein the two-post to four-post adapter includes at least two coupling members.

Claim 72 (Cancelled)

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73. (Withdrawn) A method for enabling rack mounting of a device having a four-post rack-mounting configuration to a two-post rack system, said method comprising: providing a two-post to four-post adapter on the two-post rack system, the two-post to four-post adapter operable to support the device having a four-post rack-mounting configuration.

74. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, wherein the two-post to four-post adapter includes at least two coupling members.

75. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, further comprising: measuring hardware providing for the configuration of the device having the four-post rack-mounting configuration; and specifying dimensions for the two-post to four-post adapter based on said measuring.

76. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, wherein said providing includes at least one of the following: selling, distributing, including, offering for sale, advertising, and marketing.

77. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, wherein the two-post to four-post adapter is provided with the device.

78. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, wherein the two-post to four-post adapter is provided with the two-post rack system.

79. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 77, wherein the device is a computer server.